

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. During telephone conversation with G. Roger Lee, Attorney for the Applicants, Registration Number 28,963 on July 30, 2008 authorizations for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims,

114. (Currently Amended) A method by which multiple clients browse content on a network and preserve access indefinitely to content that is no longer on the network, the method comprising:

retrieving for each of the multiple clients, data items of content stored at network storage locations, accessing the content data items via a proxy servers;

providing a data repository different from the network storage location and connected to the proxy server;

determining a digital fingerprint of a content data item that is one of the data items of content retrieved for one of the multiple clients from one of the network storage locations;

testing for whether the content data item is already stored in the data repository by comparing the digital fingerprint of the content data item to the digital fingerprints of content data items already in storage in the data repository;

ensuring that a stored data item identical to the content data item exist in the data repository by storing the content data item in the data repository if comparing establishes that a data item identical to the content data item is not already stored in the data repository, and not storing the content data item in the data repository if comparing establishes that a data item identical to the content data item is already stored in the data repository;

associating the stored data item with an access authorization credential uniquely associated with the one of the multiple clients or a person associated with the one; and

assigning an expiration time to the stored data item, before which time both modification and deletion are prohibited;

Whereby the stored data item is preserved and can be retrieved using the access authorization credential, for an indefinite period after the content data item is no longer present at the network storage locations;

Wherein, after the expiration time is assigned and before the expiration time has passed, the one of the multiple clients can change the expiration time to a later time but no action taken by the one of the multiple clients can cause the expiration time to be changed to an earlier time or cause the stored data item to be deleted;

wherein after the expiration time has passed deletion of the data item is allowed; wherein the indefinite period extends at least until the expiration time; and

wherein the data repository retains a copy of a plurality of data items of content accessed by the one of the multiple clients via the proxy server, thereby preserving the content after it has been altered or removed from network; and

wherein the expiration time assigned automatically based on a set of rules governing the assignment of expiration times to the plurality of data items of content accessed by the one of multiple clients, without being assigned individually by the one of the multiple clients.

172 (Cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 114 – 116, 165 – 166, 168 – 171 and 173 are hereby indicated as allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter.

The prior arts of record, (Kanai) disclose a data transfer scheme using a caching technique and/or a compression technique which is capable of reducing the network load of a network connecting between data transfer devices; (Yuasa) discloses the provision of a receiving apparatus that receives broadcast contents and accumulates the contents in a storage medium, and stores the accumulated contents into other devices to make them available to the user for a long period of time.

However, Kanai, Yuasa or Heilig fails to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "Wherein, after the expiration time is assigned and before the expiration time

has passed, the one of the multiple clients can change the expiration time to a later time but no action taken by the one of the multiple clients can cause the expiration time to be changed to an earlier time or cause the stored data item to be deleted; wherein after the expiration time has passed deletion of the data item is allowed; wherein the indefinite period extends at least until the expiration time; wherein the data repository retains a copy of a plurality of data items of content accessed by the one of the multiple clients via the proxy server, thereby preserving the content after it has been altered or removed from network; wherein the expiration time assigned automatically based on a set of rules governing the assignment of expiration times to the plurality of data items of content accessed by the one of multiple clients, without being assigned individually by the one of the multiple clients" as required by independent claim 114.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also indicated as allowable.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 571-272-4034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Fred I. Ehichioya/
Examiner, Art Unit 2162

/John Breene/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2162